

On page 1, immediately after the title, please insert the following paragraph and heading as follows:

This specification for the instant application should be granted the priority date of October 13, 2002, the filing date of the corresponding German patent application 102 47 751.5 as well as the priority date of October 11, 2003, the filing date of the corresponding International patent application PCT/EP2003/011282.

Background of the Invention.

On page 2, line 19, please insert the following heading:

--Summary of the Invention--

On page 3, lines 12-19, please amend this paragraph as follows:

The invention also relates to a device for welding rails with a heat treated head, in particular according to the claimed method of claim 1, with a casting mold comprising two mold halves made of a refractory material, each having at least one lateral vent, which define a casting space upon assembly around the two rail ends to be connected, with a sealing element covering the rail head and closing the casting space and with alloy additives in a solid, compact form arranged above the rail head.

On page 4, lines 4 and 5, please delete this paragraph entirely as follows:

~~The dependent claims 3-10 are directed to advantageous embodiments of the device of the present invention.~~

On page 4, line 6, please insert the following heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 5, line 3, please insert the following heading:

--Description of Specific Embodiments--.

On page 6, lines 2-4, please amend this paragraph as follows:

During the welding of the rails, steel contacting the sealing element 6-7 is distributed in

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the distribution space and flows from above into the sprues.

On page 8, after line 4, please insert the following two new paragraphs:

--The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 102 47 751.5 filed October 13, 2002 and PCT/EP2003/011282 filed October 11, 2003.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.--

In addition, please add the attached abstract to the specifcation: